

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01657 210705Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
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R 201403Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 500
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//ISA(SA)/DSAA//
DEPT OF ARMY WASHDC//DAMI-FL/DALO-ILM/DAMO-SSA/DAMA//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 1657

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAITI INTEREST IN TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES
(M-88)

REF: (A) 77 STATE 207984, (B) KUWAIT 686 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 35076.

1. REF A REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT BE INFORMED OF ANY FOREIGN INTEREST IN MUNITIONS LIST ITEMS. BY SEPTTEL (INFO TO THE DEPT) WE ARE INFORMING DA OF THE RECENT INTEREST OF THE GOK IN TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES (M-88). THE KUWAITI MILITARY TEAM WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT DA IN APRIL, TO DISCUSS THE CONTENTS OF THE SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER "PACKAGE," HAD INDICATED AN INTEREST IN SEEING SUBJECT VEHICLES. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOK WANTS TO INCLUDE FOUR OF THESE VEHICLES IN THE HOWITZER PACKAGE. ALSO, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOK MAY EVENTUALLY REQUEST UP TO 20 M-88'S TO PROVIDE A GENERAL RECOVERY CAPABILITY FOR ITS TANKS, APC'S AND SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZERS. WE NOTE THAT TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES ARE DESIGNATED AS ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANT COMBAT EQUIPMENT ON THE MUNITIONS LIST.

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2. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THE PROPOSED HOWITZER PACKAGE NOW CONTAINS FOUR LIGHT RECOVERY VEHICLES (M-578), AS DISTINCT FROM TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES. IT APPEARS THAT THE KUWAITIS MAY WISH TO SUBSTITUTE M-88'S FOR THESE M-578'S.

3. ALSO WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE A KUWAITI REQUEST FOR ABOUT 40 TANK TRANSPORTERS, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED WHEN

RECEIVED (REFS B AND C).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT INDICATE WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD, AT THIS STAGE, FURNISH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENT REGARDING THE KUWAITI REQUIREMENT FOR TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES. ALSO, REQUEST DEPARTMENT INFORM EMBASSY WHETHER THE KUWAITI MILITARY TEAM WILL BE PERMITTED TO EXAMINE M-88'S DURING ITS APRIL TRIP TO THE US.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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